

PROPERTY FOR SALE Sunday, September 21, 2014

Unifying Topic: A NEW FUTURE

Lesson Text

I. **Jeremiah Endures Prison** (Jeremiah 32:2-5)

II. **Jeremiah Hears And Obeys God** (Jeremiah 32:6-9)

III. **Jeremiah Seals The Deed** (Jeremiah 32:14-15)

Lesson Text: For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land (Jeremiah 32:15, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Even in dire circumstances, some people take hopeful actions. What gives them the confidence to do so? While Jerusalem was under siege, God instructed the prophet Jeremiah to purchase property as a sign that there was a future for the people and their land beyond defeat and exile.

Lesson Aim: To hear and obey God's message of judgment and restoration knowing that it is the truth and will come to pass.

Life Aim: To heed God's Word, which will require repentance, action, and the passing of its promises to the next generation.

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- 32:2** For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.
- 32:3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;
- 32:4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;
- 32:5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the Lord: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.
- 32:6 And Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
- 32:7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.
- 32:8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the Lord, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.
- 32:9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.
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- 32:14** Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.
- 32:15 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.

HISTORY:

Jeremiah 31:38-40 Jerusalem was about to be destroyed, and yet, in days that may be long coming God will eventually rebuild the city of Jerusalem and divine worship restored. The dimensions of the rebuilt Jerusalem will be enlarged. The geographical measurements are given: It will be built from "the Tower of Hananel" (boundary marker one) to "the Corner Gate" (boundary marker two). The Tower of Hananel is referred to in Neh. 3:1; 12:39; Zech. 14:10. The boundary line will extend farther, straight west from there to "the Hill of Gareb" (boundary marker three) and then turn southward to "Goah" (boundary marker four). "The Hinnom Valley" (boundary marker five) was on the southwestern and southern side of the city which is generally referred to "the whole valley where dead bodies and sacrificial ashes" (boundary marker five) are thrown. It was here where the people of Jerusalem had burned their children as sacrifices and where the Lord had said that there would be so many dead bodies when he punished them that they would be unable to bury all of them (cf. Jer 7:31-32). This defiled place would be included within the holy city. "All the fields as far as the Brook Kidron" (boundary marker six) are mentioned also in 2 Kgs 23:4 as the place where Josiah burned the cult objects of Baal. The Kidron Valley is the valley that joins the Hinnom Valley in the southeastern corner of the city and runs northward on the east side of the city. The city will never again be torn down or destroyed. And "the Horse Gate" (boundary marker seven) stood at the southeast corner of the city wall and led out to the Kidron Valley. What had formerly been unclean land, full of dead bodies, would be holy to the Lord. The city's change in character would be even more remarkable than its change in size. Seven markers mean completion!

32:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the

eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. The Word of the Lord had earlier come to Jeremiah in the 21st Chapter against Zedekiah in which the Lord God would fight against him and the people because he would not heed the warnings. Zedekiah had been appointed as king by Nebuchadnezzar whom he later rebelled against. *"Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years"* (2 Chron. 36:11). He did evil in the sight of God and did not heed from the warnings of the devastation of the three kings before him. He would be the last of the kings of Judah. The Word of God comes to him again in his tenth year of reign through the prophet Jeremiah. The siege of Jerusalem began in his ninth year of reign. And this was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Zedekiah would rule 11 years (2Kgs.25:2) when Jerusalem finally fell.

LESSON:

Jeremiah 32:2-5 Jeremiah Endures Prison

32:2 For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house. Babylon's army began besieging Jerusalem which was in the tenth year of Zedekiah's rule. Jeremiah was imprisoned under Zedekiah's rule. He was *"shut-up"* which simply means imprisoned. So no harm would come to him God allowed him to be shut-up in prison to protect him. The court of the prison was probably the safest place for Jeremiah to be and he endured his time there. It was next to the king's palace.

32:3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;— The king put Jeremiah into prison on the charge of preaching or prophesying treason against the city and the king. It was hard for the king to hear Jeremiah's message: that God was going to give the city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and therefore because of his message, he was imprisoned.

32:4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;— Zedekiah would not escape being taken by the Babylonians. He would neither escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans. ¹The Chaldeans were people who lived in southern Babylonia which would be the southern part of Iraq today. Sometimes the term Chaldeans is used to refer to Babylonians in general, but normally it refers to a specific semi-nomadic tribe that lived in the southern part of Babylon. 2Kings 25:4-6 *"And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night ... by the king's garden: now the Chaldees were against the city round about: and the king went the way toward the plain. And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him... and all his army were scattered from him. So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon..."* Zedekiah didn't have a chance against the Chaldeans when God fights against them.

²*Nebuchadnezzar appointed King Zedekiah to rule as his representative over Judah, but after nine years and still not having learned their lesson, Zedekiah led Judah in rebellion against Babylon one final time (2 Kings 24–25). Influenced by false prophets and ignoring Jeremiah's warnings, Zedekiah decided to join a coalition that was being formed by Edom, Moab, Ammon and Phoenicia in rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 27:1-3). This resulted in Nebuchadnezzar again laying siege to Jerusalem. Jerusalem fell in July 586 B.C., and Zedekiah was taken captive to Babylon after seeing his sons killed before him and then having his eyes plucked out (2 Kings 25). At this time Jerusalem was laid to waste, the temple destroyed and all the houses burned.*

The king of Babylon shall have mastery over Zedekiah and they shall have speech together, meeting face to face, meaning he must answer personally to the king of Babylon and confront him face to face. ³We learn from 2 Kgs. 25:4-7 that Zedekiah's family was put to death before his eyes and then his eyes were blinded and he was taken into exile.

32:5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the Lord: though ye fight

¹ <http://www.gotquestions.org/Chaldeans.html#ixzz3C74XL6Pr>

² <http://www.gotquestions.org/Babylonian-captivity-exile.html#ixzz3C7v6kgFE>

³ http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/old_testament_studies/VOL13AOT/VOL13AOT_32.html

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper. The Word that came to Jeremiah to give to Zedekiah was that Nebuchadnezzar would take Zedekiah away to Babylon where he will remain until the Lord visits him, but he will die in Babylon, not in his own land. Though he fought against the Chaldeans, he will not succeed because he would not heed the warnings; did evil in the sight of God and would not trust God.

Jeremiah 32:6-9 Jeremiah Hears And Obeys God

32:6 And Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came unto me, saying,— The Lord speaks to Jeremiah again.

32:7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it. Now this sounds illogical for a man in prison. However, God lets Jeremiah know that his uncle's son, Hanameel will come to him to ask him to buy his field in Anathoth. ⁴Jeremiah's dad was priest in Anathoth. The "*right of redemption*" was Jeremiah's, because this land had belonged to his family. The "*law of redemption*" granted that a near relative could redeem property under certain conditions and thus keep it in the family. We could look at this as being very foolish in the natural thoughts of man (buying worthless land while in prison), but this is God telling Jeremiah to redeem the land. Faith is believing in things that are not necessarily the practical thing to do at the time. It is putting trust in God, and doing exactly what God wants.

32:8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the Lord, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord. What God had spoken to Jeremiah came to pass. Hanameel came to him in the court of the prison (*where business is transacted*) as the Lord said. Hanameel, Jeremiah's cousin asked him to buy the field in Anathoth from him. Why? Because it was Jeremiah's first right of inheritance and redemption to buy the land; he was also the nearest relative. And his cousin was trying to unload some worthless land. Jeremiah then knew that this was really the Word of the Lord because it occurred just as the Lord said it would. You see, this land would be in the hands of the Babylonians, it was worthless at this time, and, oh yeah, Jeremiah was in prison and the future of the nation was bleak. ??? Wow, what a time for a transaction!

32:9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. Jeremiah would have never considered buying this land if this Word hadn't come from the Lord first, but, since it did; Jeremiah trusted the Lord and did as he said, bought the field of Hanameel, his uncle's son, giving him seventeen shekels of silver for it. There is always a purpose to God's plan. ⁵Though Jerusalem was besieged, and the whole country likely to be laid waste, yet the time would come, when houses, and fields, and vineyards, should be again possessed.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON

32:10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. Proper legal procedures were followed, consisting of a signed deed, sealing it, having witnesses, and the transaction of the money.

32:11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:— The law and custom implied where Scribes wrote two copies of the deed. One copy was to be rolled up and sealed to prevent tampering, while the other was left open for easy reference. All was done for the evidence of the purchase.

32:12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison. Now Jeremiah is in the court of the prison, though confined, all the

⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/jeremiah/35.html>

⁵ <http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/32-8.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

Jews, soldiers, and others sat while the signing and sealing of the purchase deed took place. The legal documents were given to Baruch who was Jeremiah's faithful disciple and scribe. His name means "*blessed*." He was responsible for preparing the documents under the prophet's direction for Hanameel and for the presence of the witnesses.

32:13 And I charged Baruch before them, saying,— In the presence of the witnesses and Hanameel, Jeremiah gave a charge; specific instructions to Baruch.

BACK TO THE LESSON

Jeremiah 32:14-15 Jeremiah Seals The Deed

32:14 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel had spoken to Jeremiah and he obeyed, giving Baruch a charge; specific instructions of the sealed and opened documents. He was to take the sealed and the open documents and put them both into an earthen vessel for safekeeping without damage. Valuable documents were commonly placed in pottery jars for security and could confirm the right person in a future day.

32:15 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land. The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel says they would again possess this land. Once the land was repopulated, these sealed deeds would allow the rightful owner to reclaim the family patrimony (*property or other legal entitlements; or family inheritance*). This is a key to the understanding of the vision of the seven sealed book of Revelation. This title-deed to the world remains sealed until the rightful owner, the Lord Jesus Christ, claims His inheritance.

SUMMARY:

⁶In the 32nd chapter of Jeremiah's prophecy we find that what got him thrown in jail was his insistence that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, would conquer Jerusalem. Jerusalem's king Zedekiah didn't like that! While in prison, Jeremiah's cousin, Hanameel offers the prophet the right to purchase land in Anathoth. How strange! If the prophet's prediction came true (and it certainly did), then land titles issued under Hebrew law would be worthless. And if the prophecy failed, Jeremiah would stay in jail. It seemed like Jeremiah's life was *on hold*. We know in our heart that God never forgets about us and His desire is for us to keep moving closer to Him, but there are times in our life when it seems that it is *on hold*. So what are we to do:

- I. Keep doing what God has told you to do (vv.1-3). Jeremiah did not stop doing what God had told him to do even when it was going to land him in prison. We may want to stay away from church, stop praying or reading our Bible.
- II. Don't force an easy solution (vv.3-5). Zedekiah was giving Jeremiah an easy way out. Change your prophecy about me and you will get out of prison. It is easy to bail out of a marriage, for a teen to leave home or quit our job. God's solutions usually take longer.
- III. Trust God's Word even when it may seem radical to others (vv.6-9). Jeremiah was in prison and the Babylonians were coming. The only real reason to buy the land was because he trusted God.
- IV. Remember that exercising faith does not always bring immediate results (vv.10-15). Jeremiah knew that this act was something for future generations. Praying is like this. Many of my mother's prayers were not answered until after she was with the Lord. *I can attest to that!*

APPLICATION:

Our new future always starts with trusting God! Like Jeremiah even in dire circumstances God never leaves us to ourselves.

⁶ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/what-do-you-do-when-it-seems-like-your-life-is-sitting-still/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>